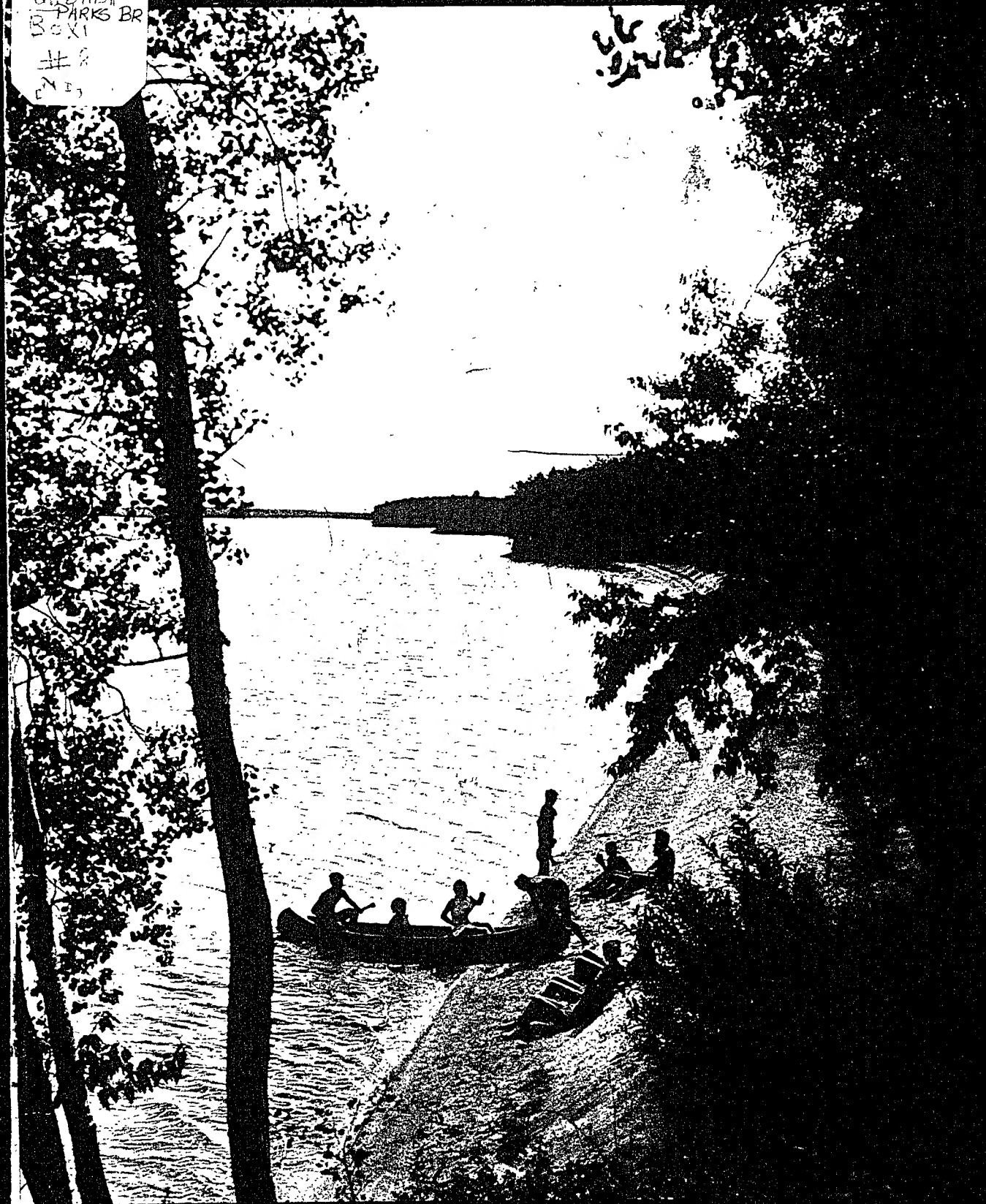


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P. 13

# PLAYGROUNDS OF THE PRAIRIES



RIDING MOUNTAIN, PRINCE ALBERT  
ELK ISLAND, NEMISKAM, AND WOOD  
BUFFALO NATIONAL PARKS



## *The National Parks of Canada*

CANADA'S system of National Parks is one of the largest and finest in the world. Set aside by statute for the use and enjoyment of the people, the National Parks include regions of outstanding scenic beauty, natural phenomena, historic interest, or unique fauna and flora. Diverse in character and varied in purpose, they conserve the original wild life of Canada under natural conditions, help maintain the primitive beauty of the landscape, and preserve sites memorable in the nation's history. As recreational areas they also provide, under ideal conditions, unequalled opportunities for the enjoyment of outdoor life.

The National Park system in Canada was instituted more than fifty years ago when the Dominion Government, in 1885, set aside for public use an area of ten square miles surrounding hot mineral springs in the Canadian Rockies at Banff, Alberta. Two years later this area was enlarged and established as Rocky Mountains, now Banff, National Park. Other outstanding scenic areas in the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains were also reserved for National Park purposes, and formed the nucleus of the great chain of national playgrounds which now extends across the Dominion.

For purposes of description, the National Parks of Canada may be divided into three main groups—the large scenic and recreational parks in the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains of Alberta and British Columbia; the scenic, recreational, and wild animal parks of the Prairie Provinces; and the parks in Eastern Canada, which fall into scenic, recreational, and historic classes.

In these pages will be found descriptions of the National Parks in the second group—areas which lie in and north of the great plains in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Containing forested hills and valleys, sparkling lakes, silvery beaches, and miles of interconnected waterways, they form a paradise for canoeist, fisherman, and lover of the outdoors.

In view of the limited space available in a publication of this kind, the information provided is necessarily of a general nature. Additional information, however, concerning these parks is available in folder form, and may be obtained on application from the Park Superintendents, or from the National Parks Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada.







*The Breakwater and Dock at Wasagaming*

## RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

### MANITOBA

**M**ANITOBA'S NATIONAL PLAYGROUND—Riding Mountain National Park—has a setting and character unique for any location in a prairie province. Situated on the fringe of the Great Plains region which extends northwards from the Mississippi Valley into central Canada, it occupies the vast plateau of Riding Mountain which rises to a height of 2,200 feet above sea level. On the east and northeast, the park presents a steep escarpment, towering nearly 1,100 feet above the surrounding country and affording magnificent views of the fertile plains below. Sweeping westward for nearly seventy miles, the park contains an area of 1,148 square miles, heavily forested, and set with numerous crystal lakes, some of which are several miles long.

The park is a natural home for species of big game native to the region, including deer, elk, moose, and bear. Wild fowl are numerous, song-birds and birds of brilliant plumage enliven the forests, beaver live along the streams, and a herd of buffalo, descendants of the great herds that once roamed the western plains, feed on the rich meadows near Audy Lake.

On Clear Lake, the largest and most beautiful in the park, a picturesque summer resort, Wasagaming, has been developed, in which is located the park administrative headquarters. Here the natural attractions of the area have been supplemented by facilities for the enjoyment of outdoor life and recreation, and by grounds and buildings designed to harmonize with the surroundings.

Situated about 125 miles north of the International Boundary and 175 miles northwest of Winnipeg, and served by modern highways from the south, east, and north, Riding Mountain National Park forms an unsurpassed holiday ground.

#### *Early History*

The origin and early history of Riding Mountain Park are of interest, for many of its natural features were shaped by the great glaciers of the Ice Age. The steep escarpment of Riding Mountain itself is mainly the result of pre-glacial erosion, and later, with the surrounding country, it lay under an immense sheet of ice.

Evidence of glacial movements remains in the depressions now filled by small lakes, and by moraine and boulders which are found in many parts of the park. As the ice receded, large lakes formed in the surrounding valleys, and towards the east lay a vast inland sea of which Lakes Dauphin, Winnipegosis, Manitoba, and Winnipeg are all that remain.

Some idea of the immensity of this watery expanse may be gained from the magnificent panoramic views which are available from vantage points or lookouts along the eastern escarpment. Here the prairie unfolds in a great checkerboard of farmlands—green, brown, russet, and gold.

These plains were at one time Indian Territory—the home of the Assiniboines and Crees. With the acquisition of firearms, tribal sports and hunting eventually gave way to savage hostilities, and raids into rival



*Eastern Gateway to Riding Mountain National Park*

territories ensued. As the buffalo, staple source of supply for the western tribes, began to disappear, the Assiniboines moved westward, and left the Crees in possession of the region. The ridges are believed to have been Indian highways for years, and one of the early explorers records that shale outcroppings near the summit of Riding Mountain were used by the Indians for making clay pipes.

The first exploration of the region appears to have been carried out by a Canadian Government expedition under Henry Youle Hind in 1858. This party explored the country between the South Saskatchewan and Red Rivers, and arriving at the southern end of Dauphin Lake in October, climbed the steep heights of Riding Mountain. Hind was greatly impressed by the outlook, describing it in his book *Red River and Saskatchewan Expeditions*: "The view from the summit was superb, enabling the eye to take in the whole of Dauphin Lake and the intervening country, together with part of Winnipegosis Lake. The outline of Duck Mountain rose clear and blue in the northwest, and, from our point of view, the Riding and Duck Mountains appeared continuous, and preserved a uniform, precipitous, bold outline, rising abruptly from a level country lying 800 to 1,000 feet below."

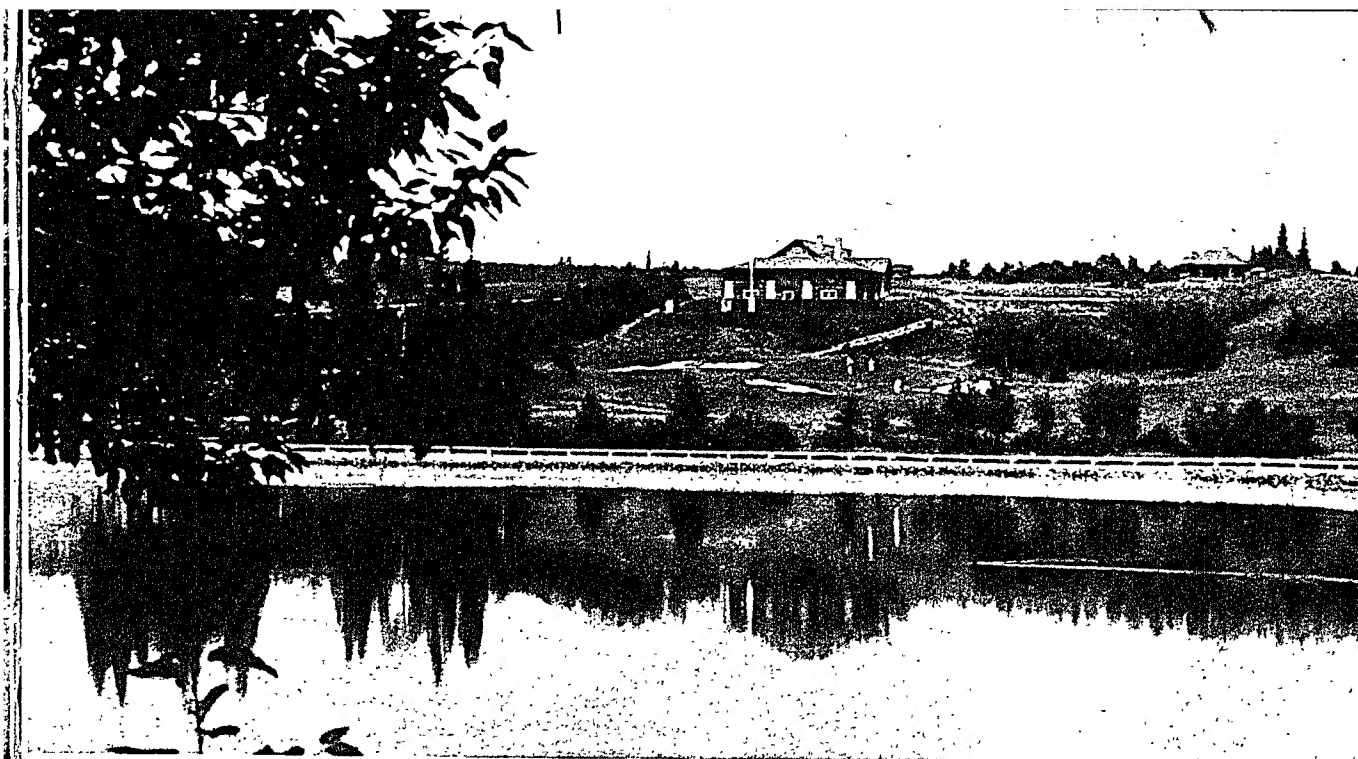
### ***Approaches to the Park***

Riding Mountain National Park is easily reached both from Canada and the United States. It is linked with the main provincial and state highway systems by all-weather roads and is provided with three main entrances accessible by southern, eastern, and northern approaches.

The southern approach to the park is by way of Provincial Highway No. 10, which is a direct route from the International Boundary. From Minnedosa, this picturesque route provides views of some of the most charming pastoral countrysides in the province, and leads to the southern gateway at Wasagaming, the park townsite.

From Winnipeg, the Provincial capital, Highway No. 1 may be followed to Portage la Prairie, and from there, Highway No. 4 leads to Minnedosa. An alternative route from Winnipeg may be followed over Highway No. 1 to Brandon and thence north to the park by Highway No. 10. The distances from Winnipeg to the park over these routes are 174 and 207 miles respectively. Four main routes from the southern part of the province also converge on Brandon.

From the east, approach is made over Highway No. 5 from Neepawa to Norgate, and from there westward over Park Highway No. 5A to Wasagaming. This route provides



*The Golf Club commands a fine view of Clear Lake*

the visitor with a full realization of the mountainous character of the park, as the road ascends the steep escarpment of Riding Mountain by long easy grades. Within a travelled distance of about three miles an elevation of more than 1,000 feet is gained, and at various points are excellent views of the plains below that stretch away into the distance.

From the north, access is provided by Highway No. 10, which crosses the park boundary about eight miles south of Dauphin. By this route, the northern escarpment of Riding Mountain is climbed, passing through green forests and skirting several small lakes. At Dauphin Lookout, near the summit, an observation platform has been built, where a pause may be made to view the wonderful panorama of prairie farmlands. The town of Dauphin and Lake Dauphin are visible on clear days. About 31 miles from Dauphin, the highway turns eastward and skirts the western end of Clear Lake to merge with Highway No. 5A near the park golf course. Approach from Dauphin also may be made by Highway No. 5 to the Norgate intersection, and from that point east to Clear Lake.

Riding Mountain Park is easily accessible from the United States. Six main highways lead from the International Boundary, four of which converge on Brandon, and two on Winnipeg. One of the most popular approaches is via the Canal-to-Canada Highway

through Dunseith, North Dakota, to the International Peace Garden on the International Boundary. From there, Highway No. 10 is followed north to the park through Boissevain, Brandon, and Minnedosa.

Buses connecting with the main provincial bus-line services of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, leave Minnedosa and Dauphin twice daily for Riding Mountain National Park. A through bus service from Brandon to Wasagaming also enters the park daily. Points near the park from which railroad service is available include Neepawa, Norgate, Dauphin, and Erickson on the lines of the Canadian National Railways, and Neepawa and Minnedosa on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

### ***Natural Attractions***

The natural attractions of the park have a broad appeal. Eighty-five miles of excellent motor roads wind through luxuriant forests of white and black spruce, jack pine, aspen, white birch, tamarack, balsam fir, green ash, elm, and Manitoba maple, and the contrasting colouring of bark and leaves, mingled with the deep shade of evergreens, provides a delightful show of Nature's wonders. Smaller trees such as mountain ash, wild plum, and serviceberry are common, and shrubs of many kinds, including hazel, high-bush cranberry, saskatoon, and dogwood, are interspersed among the trees. In the autumn the shrubs combine with larger species to produce a





marvellous colouring of the landscape. Wild flowers grow in great profusion and blossom in a riot of colour. At varying periods may be seen wild roses, twin-flower, marsh marigold, orange lily, pasque flower, bunchberry, wintergreen, fireweed, Indian paint brush, and Indian pipe, as well as golden rod, violet, and brown-eyed susan.

The park originally comprised the Riding Mountain National Forest, and for over a quarter of a century its timber resources have been under scientific management. A forest experiment station, open to visitors, has been established near Clear Lake for the investigation of problems relating to the growth, development, and wise use of the timber species of the region.

The lakes of the park are among its great charms. Lying between green ridges, they vary in size from small tarns to bodies of water several miles long. Clear Lake—the largest—is also the finest in the park. Nine miles long, it varies in width from one to two and a half miles, and through its crystal-clear waters may be seen bubbles from the many springs by which it is fed. Between the headlands are inviting coves and inlets where canoeists may linger and bathe, and on placid summer afternoons its limpid surface reflects marvellously the colouring of trees, boulders, and sandy pebbled beaches. From such vantage points as the golf course at the head of the lake, the breakwater, or main beach may be enjoyed the full magnificence of the Manitoba sunset.

### *Wild Animal Life*

The park forms a natural home for wild life. Black bear, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and moose are found in the undisturbed forests, and beaver along the streams. One of the largest herds of elk in Canada ranges the plains and woodlands in the park and may often be seen on the meadows near Audy Lake, or on some outlying trail.

In a special fenced area of 2,000 acres near Lake Audy is a small exhibition herd of buffalo. Seen grazing in the lush meadows of the park, these animals recall to mind thrilling stories of the days when Indians, armed only with bow and arrow, pursued thundering herds across the vast reaches of the prairie to the west. Included with the buffalo are a number of native elk, deer, and moose, which present countless opportunities for camera studies.

Top—*Bathers at Wasagamung*  
Centre—*Cruising along the North Shore*  
Bottom—*The Park Administration Building*



### ***Bird Life***

Lovers of bird life will find many interesting varieties. Migratory birds, following the skyways to and from their nesting grounds in Northern Canada, find rest and shelter on the lakes and marshes. Wild ducks, Canada geese, swans, cormorants, and pelicans are picturesque transients; loons and bitterns feed around the lakes and sloughs. Songsters which gladden the air include the white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, purple finch, red-winged blackbird, rose-breasted grosbeak, baltimore oriole, catbird, and meadowlark. Birds of brilliant plumage, such as blue jay, kingfisher, pileated woodpecker, cedar waxwing, Bohemian waxwing, evening grosbeak, and ruby-throated hummingbird gather in numbers. The Canada jay, also known as "whiskey-jack" or "camp robber", is particularly active around camp-sites at mealtime, and sharp-tailed grouse, owls, and hawks are also native to the park.

### ***Townsite and Headquarters***

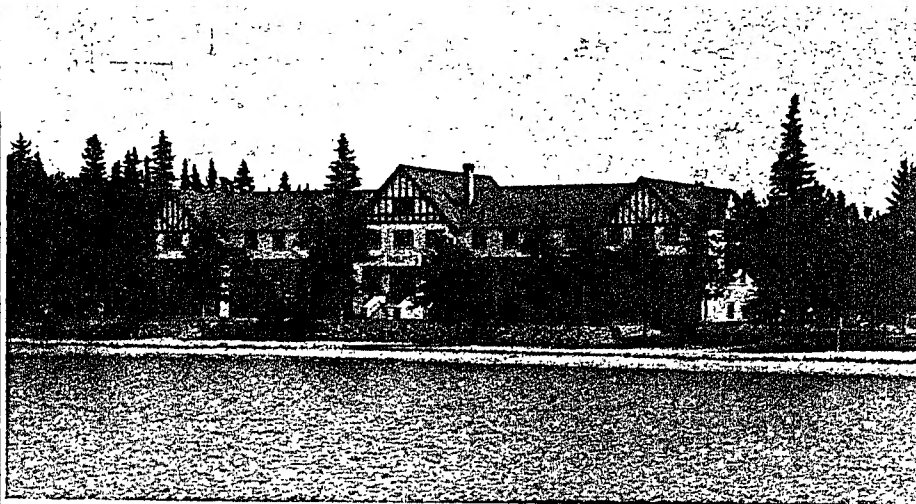
Wasagaming, an attractive summer resort on the southern shore of Clear Lake, is the park townsite and contains the administrative headquarters. Here are graded and hard-surfaced streets, smooth green boulevards, well-kept walks, and buildings constructed to harmonize with the natural beauty of the surroundings. The townsite contains a number of hotels, several stores, restaurants, beauty salon, drug store, theatre, souvenir shops, service garages, and other business concessions. Nearly 200 summer homes have been constructed, and sites for more are available.

In the centre of the townsite, adjoining the lake shore, a large park area has been laid out, with artistic walks, pergolas, flower beds, hedges, and other botanical displays. Near the centre of this area is the park administration building, which also serves as a bureau of information for visitors.

An outstanding point of interest in the townsite is the Museum Building, constructed of natural logs and stone. It contains mounted wild life exhibits and Indian, geological, and other displays relating to the Riding Mountain area. In the building also is a lecture hall where conferences, church services, and entertainments are held. Community rooms, suitably furnished, are available to visitors. At the rear of the building is a small garden, landscaped in English style with a small rustic summer-



Top—Twin Moose Calves  
Centre—A Wild Flower Garden  
Bottom—Clear Lake from Glen Beag Drive



*The Chalet Hotel*

house, fountain, and flagstone walks, which forms a delightful resting spot.

Another attraction in the vicinity is a promenade which extends for more than 8,000 feet along the main beach, and provides an excellent vantage point from which to view the lake. Wasagaming Drive, the main artery of travel through the townsite, is completely hardsurfaced. The name, "Wasagaming" is an Indian word meaning "clear water".

#### *Accommodation*

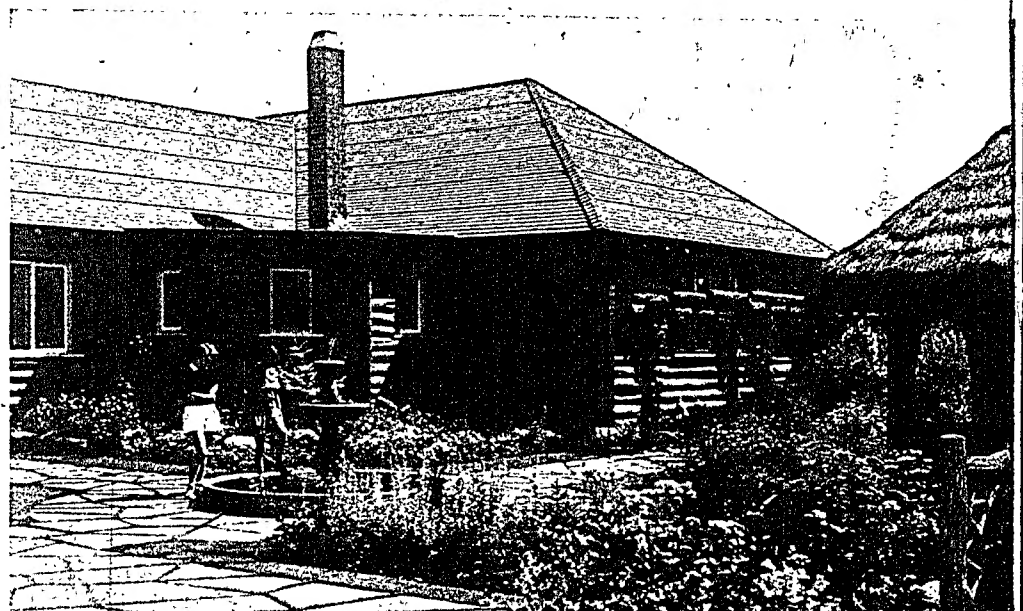
Good accommodation is available to visitors at moderate rates. A modern summer hotel with dining-room; three smaller hotels, and two auto bungalow camps with house-keeping cabins, are operated by private enterprise. The bungalow camps contain both single and double cabin units, which may be rented either completely or partly furnished. Meals may be obtained at the restaurants in the townsite. In addition, there are a number of rooming and boarding houses where visitors may secure accommodation. Summer cottages are also available for rental for varying periods, and particulars concerning them may be obtained at the office of the park superintendent.

For visitors travelling with cabin trailers or carrying their own camping equipment there is ample accommodation in the Government camp-ground. It is situated in a beautiful grove west of the business section of Wasagaming facing Clear Lake, and within easy access of stores, restaurants, and garages. Camp privileges are available on payment of a small fee, and include the use of a camping lot and community kitchen shelters equipped with stoves, tables, fire-wood, and running water. Individual lockers are available for rental in community ice-houses for the storage of perishable supplies. Spring-fed wells furnish an ample supply of clear, pure water. Camp-grounds, less completely equipped, are also available at Lake Katherine, Moon Lake, and Lake Audy.

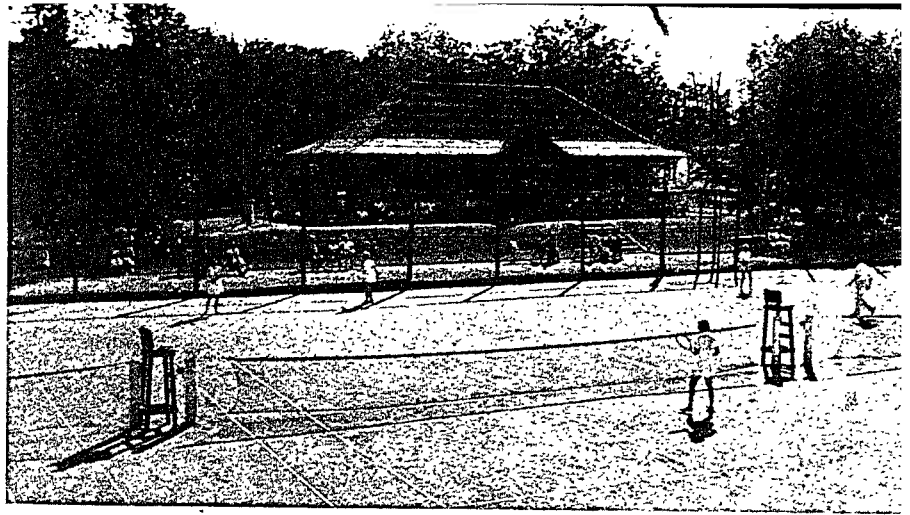
#### *Opportunities for Recreation*

Riding Mountain National Park is admirably suited for the enjoyment of outdoor recreation. Sports open to visitors include swimming, boating, riding, hiking, tennis, and golf—in addition to motoring along the scenic roads. A special area for baseball, softball, and field sports, as well as a horseshoe pitch and children's playground,

*Garden at Rear of  
Museum Building*



*The Tennis Courts and Pavilion*



will be found near the public camp-ground at Wasagaming. A picnic ground, equipped with tables, benches, and outdoor stoves is also available. A modern motion picture theatre and a fine dance pavilion operated by private enterprise in Wasagaming extend the day's enjoyment.

Of the numerous beaches in the park, one on Clear Lake, which stretches for a mile and a half along the townsite of Wasagaming, is outstanding. A breakwater constructed in the lake forms a sheltered bay. With a clean sandy bottom shelving out gradually, it provides safe and delightful bathing. Boating and canoeing are popular forms of sport, and boats may be rented at the pier. Motor launches also make regular sightseeing trips up and down the lake.

For tennis enthusiasts there are eight clay courts at Wasagaming which rank with the best in the province, and are available for use at a nominal fee. A large pavilion with spacious verandas and dressing rooms overlooks the courts.

Another outstanding attraction is the park golf course. Built to a high standard of play,

it has eighteen holes which are exceptionally interesting and challenge the skill of the average golfer. The course commands a magnificent view of Clear Lake and includes rolling terrain crossed by a winding stream appropriately known as Bogey Creek, which forms an interesting hazard at several points. An attractive club-house overlooks the eighteenth green and contains facilities for rest and refreshment. A nominal fee is charged for the use of the course, and a full line of supplies is carried by the professional shop.

Fishing, riding, hiking, and motoring help to make leisure hours more enjoyable. Clear Lake has been stocked with rainbow trout, and it is expected that this sporty species will provide fine angling in the near future. Great northern pike, whitefish, and perch are also taken. Rearing ponds for young trout have been constructed on the north shore of Clear Lake and form a point of interest to visitors.

Riding enthusiasts have a choice of several fine trails over which to explore the region. Popular rides include those to Lake Katherine, six miles; Ministik Lake, five miles; and the Bubbling Spring near the golf course, three



*Reflections in  
Bogey Creek*



*A Riding Mountain Park Highway*

miles from Wasagaming. A bridle path follows the north shore of Clear Lake for about five miles and offers a fine ride or hike within sight of the water's edge.

The motor roads of the park reveal a varied and ever-changing panorama. One of the fine shorter drives leaves Wasagaming and skirts the eastern end of the golf course for three miles to the "Wishing Well", a bubbling spring which flows into Bogey Creek near the golf course. From there, the "Glen Beag Drive", built through a delightful wooded area, may be followed, returning by way of main Highway No. 10 which circles the golf course. The park highways also lead to Dauphin Lookout, 29 miles distant, and to Norgate Lookout, 19 miles away, where fine

views of the prairies may be obtained. To the visitor interested in wild animal life, the trip to the animal enclosure at Lake Audy, twenty-five miles from Wasagaming, is well worth the time and effort.

In vivid contrast to the surrounding plains, Riding Mountain National Park is a revelation to the first-time visitor. The environment of dense green forests, blue lakes, and glistening sand beaches is far from the popular conception of a park in the Prairie Provinces. With its natural beauties unspoiled, its trees, flowers, wild animal and bird life carefully conserved and protected, and its gradual development adequately supervised, Riding Mountain Park is rapidly becoming one of Canada's most popular summer playgrounds.

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*Sunset over Clear Lake*





*A Bay on Crean Lake*

## PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK

### SASKATCHEWAN

**N**ORTHWESTERLY from Riding Mountain National Park, and almost in the geographical centre of the Province of Saskatchewan, is located another "Playground of the Prairies"—Prince Albert National Park. Set in a vast region of rocks, woods, and waters, still rich with the memories of fur-trader and trapper, of nomadic Indian and explorer, the park lies just 36 miles north of the City of Prince Albert. It contains an area of 1,869 square miles, and extending far beyond the haunts of man into the unspoiled wilderness, is typical of the lake country bordering the northern part of the great plains region of Western Canada.

Here are thousands of crystal lakes, ranging in size from tiny tarns to bodies of water nearly twenty miles long. Tied one to another by innumerable little rivers, they provide, with portages, continuous canoe routes for hundreds of miles. Scores of white sand beaches border the shores of lakes set in green forests. Sport fish abound in these waters, and the forests shelter numerous species of big and small game.

The park contains one of the main gateways to Canada's north country which for two centuries has excited the imagination of the adventurous, and provided one of the richest fields for the fur trade. The region within the park was once the hunting grounds of the Cree Indians, and probably of the Chipewyans from the northwest. A band of Crees still live on a reserve at Montreal Lake, a few

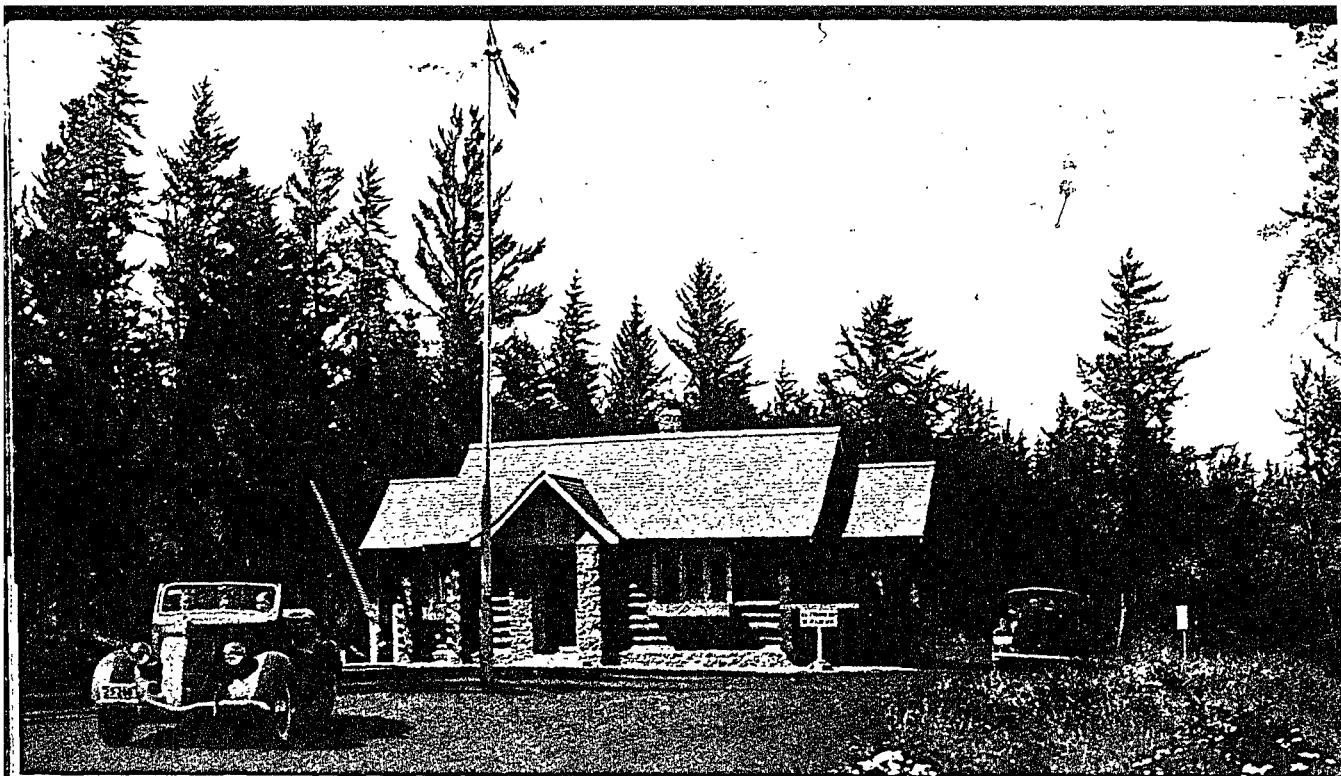
miles east of the park boundary. Peaceful and friendly, they have retained many of their ancient traditions and beliefs. Their mythology has been handed down from generation to generation, and tales of supernatural and semi-supernatural beings are still told around the camp-fires in the long winter evenings.

Many of the lakes and rivers of the park bear Indian names. Among these are Waskesiu, meaning "red deer", Wabeno, a translation for "morning light", and Tibiska, meaning "night". Chipewyan Lake is called after the Indian tribe of that name.

Another link with the historic past is the trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company at Montreal Lake, which for many years has received the catch of furs brought down from the north by trappers and Indians.

#### *Natural Features*

The park has a general elevation of about 1,800 feet above sea level. It straddles the height of land between the watershed areas of Churchill and North Saskatchewan Rivers, but practically all the larger lakes and streams drain northward into the Churchill. Within the northern part of the park are several large bodies of water—Lakes Waskesiu, Crean, Kingsmere, Lavallée, Wasaw, Wassegam, and Tibiska—and more than 100 small lakes. In the southern part of the park, adjacent to the park highway, are Halkett and Namekus Lakes, the former having a particularly fine sand beach.



*Entrance to Prince Albert National Park*

Beyond the park boundaries, to the north, east, and west, lie a succession of other lakes and rivers, extending literally like a silver chain for hundreds of miles. On the north-west their waters finally reach the Arctic Ocean, and on the east, Hudson Bay.

### ***Flora and Fauna***

Surrounding the lakes of the park are heavy growths of jack pine, white and black spruce, white birch, trembling aspen or white poplar, and black poplar. Also found are balsam fir and tamarack, numerous species of shrubs, and an abundance of wild flowers. In early autumn these trees and shrubs don a brilliant mantle of orange, crimson, and gold, which blends with diverse shades of green into a riot of colour.

Wild animals and birds are numerous. Big game most often seen by visitors are moose, white-tailed or Virginia deer, mule deer, and black bear. Woodland caribou, mule deer, and elk are also found. Fur-bearing animals such as beaver, muskrat, and otter are plentiful, and wolves and coyotes are seen in the park and vicinity.

A small herd of buffalo, developed from animals brought from Elk Island National Park, Alberta, occupies an enclosure near the park registration office on the main highway. These animals are thriving in surroundings

suited to their requirements, and form an interesting attraction to visitors.

Bird lovers will find many varieties in the park. During the spring and autumn migrations of waterfowl, the lakes provide rest and shelter for thousands of ducks, Canada geese, and other species. One of the largest rookeries of American white pelicans in Canada is located on several small rocky islands in Lavallée Lake, and double-crested cormorants are also found there in large numbers. Although clumsy on land, the pelican is very graceful in the air, and flocks of these white birds may be seen in summer soaring and gliding in easy grace high above the water. Ruffed grouse, Hudsonian spruce grouse, and a multitude of songbirds and birds of brilliant plumage also visit the park each year.

### ***Approaches to the Park***

The park lies approximately 450 miles north of the International Boundary, and is accessible by arteries of the provincial highway system which converge on the City of Prince Albert. Once a centre of the fur trade, Prince Albert is situated on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River and is one of the fine cities in Western Canada. From the south the main approach is by way of Highway No. 2, which intersects Highway No. 1, from east and west, and also connects up with





*The Camp-ground at Waskesiu*

Highway No. 39 from North Portal, one of the main points of entry from the United States.

From Prince Albert, Highway No. 2 leads to the southeast boundary of the park, where it connects with the park highway leading to Waskesiu, the administrative centre. The distance from Prince Albert to the park boundary is 36 miles, and from there to Waskesiu, 33 miles. About two miles inside the park is the registration office, where all incoming visitors by motor are required to register. From the registration office the highway winds through delightful wooded country passing several small lakes along the way to Lake Waskesiu.

From Regina, the Provincial capital, Highway No. 1 may be followed to Moosejaw, and from there Highway No. 2 leads northwards directly to Prince Albert and the park, a total distance of 350 miles. From Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the east, connection is made over Highway No. 1 via Regina, and from Calgary and Banff, Alberta, on the west, Highways 1 and 2 also provide a direct approach. Prince Albert National Park is approximately 480 miles northwest of Riding Mountain National Park, by highway.

The main points of entry from the United States are North Gate, North Portal, Marienthal, West Poplar, and Willow Creek, which are connected by state highways with United States Highway No. 2.

The nearest railway connection with the park is in the City of Prince Albert, which is served by the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway system.

Prince Albert National Park also may be reached by air. The park lies along the route of the Canadian Airways, Limited, from Prince Albert to Goldfields via Montreal Lake. Connection with the Trans-Canada Air Lines may be made at Regina by the Prairie Airways, Limited, from Prince Albert. A seaplane anchorage has been established in the park at Lake Waskesiu, and is available to commercial firms and aircraft engaged in forest patrols.

#### *The Park Headquarters*

The attractive summer resort of Waskesiu, situated at the eastern end of Lake Waskesiu, is the park townsite and administrative headquarters. It contains the residence and offices of the park superintendent, several summer hotels, stores, motor service stations, a recreational pavilion, post office, news stand, beauty parlour, and museum building. At the western end of the townsite is Prospect Point residential section, which contains a number of attractive summer homes. Cottages are also situated in the Lakeview sub-division east of the public camp-ground facing the main beach.

Stretching for more than a mile and a half along the shore of Lake Waskesiu, the beach



is one of the finest in the province. It shelves gradually into the water, providing delightful bathing for inexperienced swimmers and children. A large breakwater, with adjacent wharves, forms a convenient mooring place for motor-boats and other water craft, and is provided with ramps for canoes and row-boats.

The administrative building is located on the main avenue of the townsite facing the lake and is surrounded by a landscaped area.

### *Accommodation*

Several good summer hotels, two bungalow camps, and a large public camp-ground provide excellent accommodation for visitors. Most of the hotels have dining-room facilities, and the bungalow camps are equipped with house-keeping cabins possessing all camping necessities. Several privately owned summer cottages are also available for rental to visitors during the summer season.

The public camp-ground has an ideal location facing the main beach, just east of the business section. It is divided into blocks, each block equipped with a kitchen shelter, tables, electric light, camp-stoves, and running water. For a nominal fee the visitor secures the use of a camping lot on which to pitch his tent or park his trailer. Campers also may obtain a locker in a community ice-house for a small additional charge. Additional campsites, equipped with kitchen shelters, are available at Halkett, Kingsmere, and Crean Lakes, and on Lake Waskesiu at Paynton Beach and Hanging Heart Lake portage.



*Twinn Point Bay on*

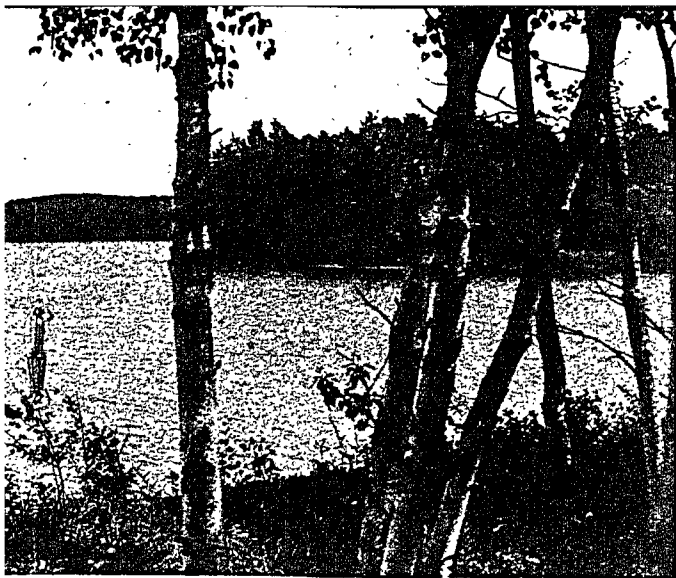
### *Opportunities for Recreation*

Recreational opportunities in Prince Albert National Park are practically unlimited. Numerous beautiful sand beaches offer delightful bathing and miles of waterways beckon to the fisherman and canoeist. Motor drives are open to the less energetic, and for those who favour competitive sports, there are tennis and golf.

Bathers using the main beach at Waskesiu are under the care of a qualified lifeguard during the summer months. Two large bath-houses are available to visitors, and a diving platform and tower, conforming to Olympic regulations, furnish facilities for diving. Along the shores of Waskesiu, Kingsmere, and Crean Lakes there are other fine beaches that invite the canoeist to linger and bathe.

*Holting Out on the 6th Green*





ry on Lake Waskesiu

Boating enthusiasts will find several boat liveryes near the breakwater at Waskesiu equipped to supply canoes, motor-boats, and row-boats at reasonable rates. Large motor launches make daily trips up Lake Waskesiu, with transfer privileges to craft which operate on other lakes, including Kingsmere and Crean.

Anglers will enjoy fishing in the numerous park lakes. Kingsmere and Crean Lakes are noted for their great lake trout, which run to exceptional weight and size. Lake Waskesiu contains great northern pike, pickerel, and white fish, and also has been stocked with small-mouth black bass, imported from Eastern Canadian waters. Fishing tackle is available at Waskesiu, and a boat livery is also operated at Hanging Heart Lake portage, on the route to Crean Lake. For those prepared

to go farther afield, Wassegam and Tibiska Lakes offer exceptional trout fishing in waters that are fished less often than those nearer Waskesiu townsite.

The park golf course, constructed on the high rolling slopes east of Prospect Point, includes 18 holes, and offers a variety of hazards which will test and delight the average golfer. From some of the fairways, fine views of Lake Waskesiu may be obtained. A large club-house, equipped with professional shop, dressing-rooms, lounge, and tea room, commands a fine view of the lake and is open to visitors. A nominal fee is charged for the use of the course.

Tennis enthusiasts will find a group of eight fine clay courts available for use in the townsite. A large recreational field has been laid out near the public camp-ground for baseball and other sports, and a children's playground, complete with swings and other amusements, is also located nearby.

Hiking and riding along the park trails are popular diversions. There are a number of trails in the vicinity of Waskesiu which offer fine outings to those desiring to ride or hike. Saddle horses may be hired from an outfitter at Waskesiu.

Visitors who prefer to do their sightseeing from automobiles will enjoy several short-drives from Waskesiu. The Narrows Road, which follows the southern shore of Lake Waskesiu for about 15 miles, provides fine vistas of the lake and access to several good bathing beaches. Another drive, eight miles long, leads to Hanging Heart Lake portage, on the north shore of Lake Waskesiu.

Bathing at Waskesiu Beach



Montreal Lake Indian Reserve is accessible over a good gravelled road twenty-two miles in length, and a drive to the buffalo enclosure over the main park highway offers a pleasing diversion.

### *Canoe Trips in the Park*

To the more adventurous visitor, the remarkable network of lakes and rivers in the park offers a wide choice of trips by canoe or motor boat. A circuit of the northern part may be made by water, passing through nearly a score of lakes. This trip is usually started from east to west although the reverse order may be followed if desired.

Leaving the dock at Waskesiu, the canoeist paddles westward up Lake Waskesiu, passing in turn King Island, which rises high above the water, Twin Point Bay, cradled between long peninsulas, and Paynton Beach, a popular bathing spot. A few miles past Waskesiu Narrows, the first portage is reached at the western end of the lake.

Waskesiu Lake is united with the next large body of water, Kingsmere Lake, by Kingsmere River, and except in late summer, this stream is navigable between dams which have been erected to raise the water level. A light railway also assists visitors in getting boats or canoes around a series of shallow rapids. Beyond the rapids smooth water brings the visitor to Kingsmere Lake.

Kingsmere Lake is one of the finest in the park. Between its bold rocky points lie numerous white sand beaches which offer ideal bathing and picnicking spots. On a high plateau west of the outlet will be found a good camp-site, equipped with a kitchen shelter, stove, and tables. Great lake trout abound in the lake, and attract many fishermen. From Kingsmere Lake a circuit of several small lakes to the west—Clare, Lily, and Bagwa—may be made with a few short portages.

North of Kingsmere Lake lie Ajawaan, Lone Island, Little Beaver, Sanctuary, and Lavallée Lakes. Portages of several hundred yards connect Ajawaan and Lone Island Lakes with Kingsmere Lake. A beautiful little body of water, surrounded by heavily wooded forest, Ajawaan Lake for several years was the site of the home of the late Grey Owl, noted naturalist and writer, who achieved a remarkable friendship with wild animals, particularly the beaver.

Top—Paddling along Green-mantled Shores

Centre—A Portage at Kingsmere Lake

Bottom—Regatta at Waskesiu Beach

Lavallée Lake is reached from Sanctuary Lake by two portages of about two and a half miles each. More than seven miles long, Lavallée Lake is noted for its rookeries of pelicans and cormorants, and is well worth a visit.

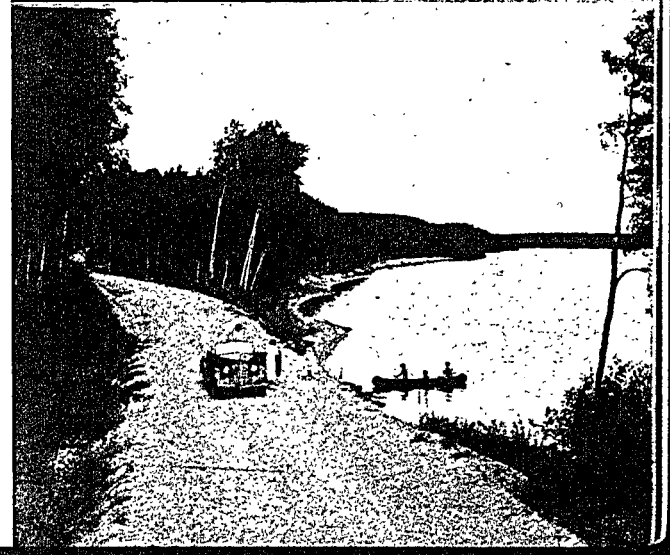
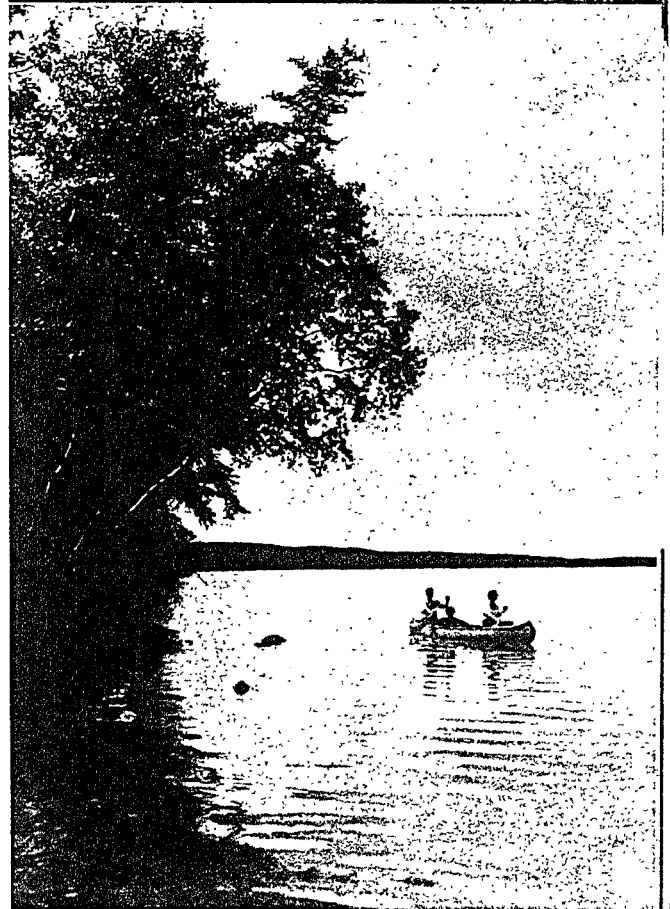
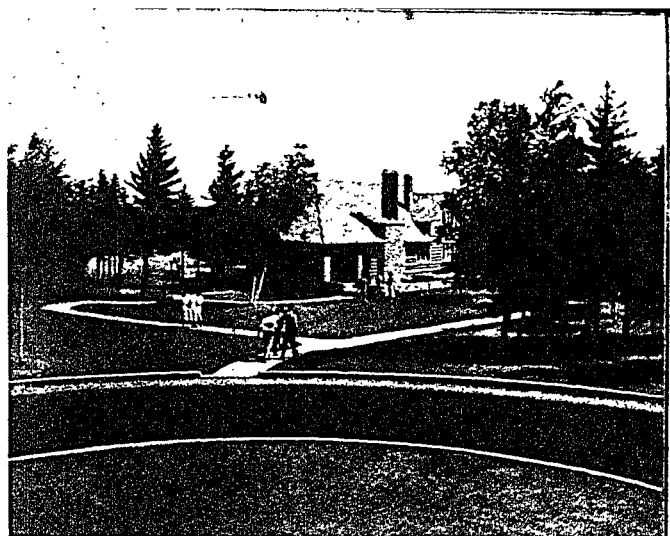
### *The Pelican Rookeries*

The pelican is one of the quaintest of our northern birds, "relic of a twilight, antediluvian age." Its large melancholy eyes, and its huge gullet pouch, which it uses as a kind of pantry for food for its young, give a semi-dignified, semi-humorous expression that is quite delightful. In flight, however, it becomes a thing of grace and beauty. Rising a little splashily from the water it beats the air for about a dozen times and then sails with outspread motionless wings on a long, easy glide.

"The realization," says Mr. P. A. Taverner, Ornithologist, National Museum of Canada, in his book 'Birds of Canada', "of how well these seemingly awkward and ponderous hulks of birds can fly comes with some little shock of surprise. We expect them to drag their great bulk about clumsily just over the water, instead of which—after a somewhat splashy start that can be excused in such large, heavy birds—once they get in the air their rise is so easy and rapid that before one is aware they are circling up and up until, at times, they vanish in the blue sky."

The double-crested cormorant is a somewhat smaller bird with black feathers bronzing to green, an orange pouch directly under the bill and a long curved upper beak. In the mating season it wears a tiny tuft of feathers over each ear, a decoration which has given it its name. At a distance the birds look a good deal like loons but they are much more graceful in movement, swimming with a graceful serpentine motion. The cormorants are expert fishers, often carrying on the business in a communal fashion that is extremely interesting to watch. To quote Mr. Taverner:—

"They spread themselves across the mouth of a shallow bay, and, facing inward, make a drive in towards a common centre. As they advance, the enclosed area becomes smaller and more closely guarded, the finny population more congested and easily caught. The divings grow shorter and more rapid and more fish are tossed and swallowed in hurried haste for another catch. As the shore is approached, the surviving fish make a despairing rush outward through their



Top—Prince Albert Park Golf Club  
Centre—On Upper Waskesiu Lake  
Bottom—Motoring on the Narrows Road



*Young Pelicans at Lavallée Lake*

enemies, and there is much commotion and excitement; then quietness, and the birds form line again along another section of the water to repeat the operation."

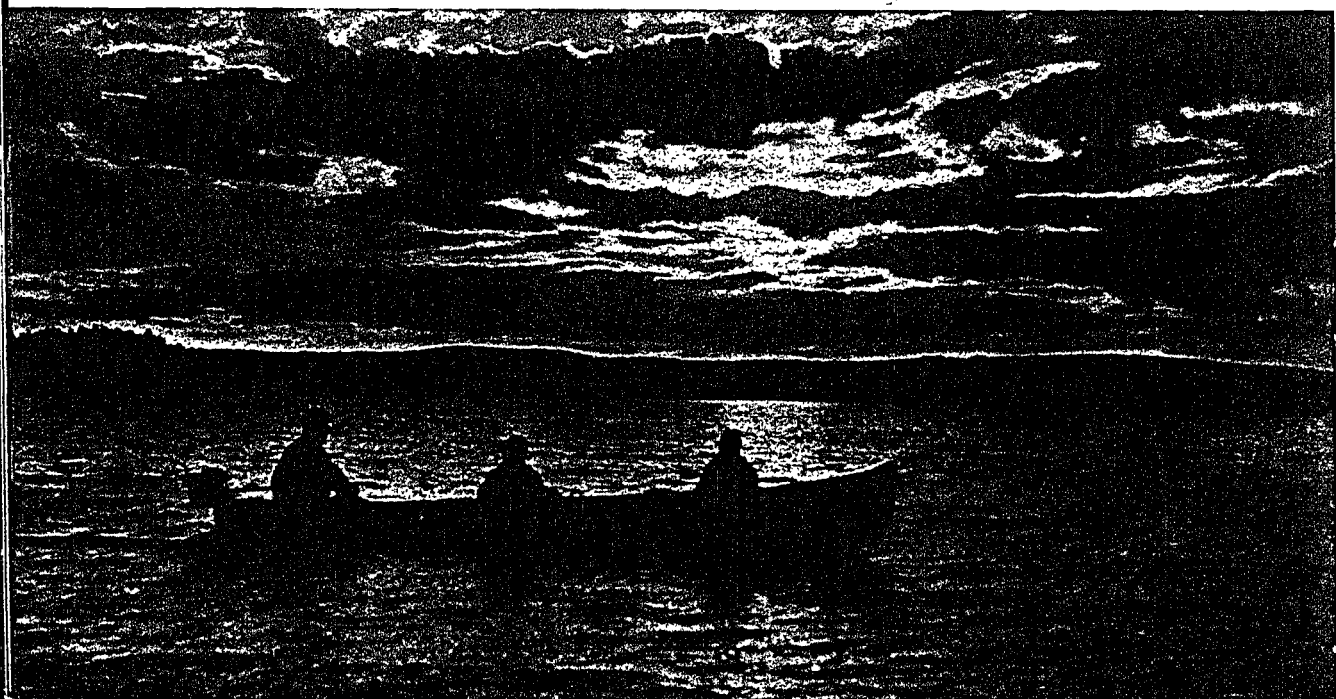
The return from Lavallée Lake to Lake Waskesiu may be made by the incoming route, or an alternative route followed east across the northern part of the park, passing through Wabeno, Mud, Wassegam, and Tibiska Lakes to Crean Lake.

Crean Lake, the largest in the park, is dotted with a number of high rocky islands, and indented with numerous bays with fine sandy beaches. Noted for its great lake trout fishing, it is frequented by many anglers during the season. A camp-site with shelter is located on the southwestern shore.

From Crean Lake, return is made to Lake Waskesiu by way of the Hanging Heart Lakes, so named from an Indian legend concerning the outcome of a battle between

Cree and Chipewyan Indians. A light railway facilitates the portage of boats and canoes between Hanging Heart and Waskesiu Lakes. The circuit of the northern part of the park by this route covers approximately one hundred miles, and affords an ideal way in which to view the natural beauty of the region.

The beauty of these northern lakes and rivers, and the primeval freshness of the region, make Prince Albert National Park a wonderful summer playground. To paddle for hours by uninhabited shores, to camp on the edge of a lovely lake, and to sleep beneath the stars is an experience one can never forget. The mental habits of modern competitive life slip off like a garment, and in the enjoyment of woods and waters, the deep scent of pines, and the smoke of an evening camp-fire, one discovers a potent magic for the restoration of health and happiness.







*Part of the Buffalo Herd*

## ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

### ALBERTA

ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK, the home of Canada's national herd of plains buffalo, is situated in central Alberta, within an hour's drive of Edmonton, the provincial capital. It enjoys the distinction of being the first national park in the Dominion to be set aside primarily as a wild animal reserve, having been reserved in 1906 to preserve from extinction the wapiti or elk of the region. As the result of developments which have been carried out to enhance the park's natural attractions, it is also serving as an important outdoor playground, and in summer it is visited by thousands of vacationists.

The park contains an area of 51 square miles, and is surrounded by a strong wire fence. It occupies part of the extensive undulating region known as the Beaver Hills, and among its well-timbered knolls and gulleys are broad open meadows abundant in wild hay. It is a natural range for big game species such as elk, moose, mule deer and buffalo, and in summer its numerous small lakes and ponds form ideal resting places and breeding grounds for waterfowl of many kinds.

About the beginning of the present century the wapiti or elk—one of the largest members of the deer family in North America—was fast disappearing from Western Canada before the tide of settlement and the inroads of hunters. In 1903 a number of individuals interested in wild life conservation brought to the attention of the Dominion Government the fact that

elk roaming the hills east of Edmonton—probably the last wild herd in existence in the region—were in danger of extinction.

Following an investigation, the Government in 1906 set aside and fenced as an animal park, an area of 16 square miles in the Cooking Lake Forest Reserve, through which the elk were known to range. The park boundaries were extended in 1922, and other small additions have since increased the area to its present dimensions.

#### *The Buffalo Herd*

The development of the buffalo herd in the park forms one of the most interesting stories in the annals of wild life conservation. The buffalo, or bison, was once the outstanding big game animal of North America. It ranged over the great interior plains of the continent and through the open areas of the adjoining forest regions. Its numbers are believed to have reached millions, and it roamed in great herds, some of which are recorded as extending 25 miles in width and 50 miles in depth. To the Indians the buffalo meant food, clothing, shelter, and fuel, and the supply appeared to be inexhaustible, for with primitive weapons the tribes made no greater demands on the buffalo than the annual increase could supply.

The arrival of the white man, however, with his more efficient fire-arms and his links with far distant markets, caused a disastrous inroad on the species. The mere pleasure of the chase led to the destruction of



*Astotin Lake and Long Island*

thousands, and both whites and Indians found a livelihood in supplying the commercial demand for robes and hides. Single individuals are reported to have killed as many as 3,000 head in a single season, and in a little more than a decade both the great northern and southern herds of plains buffalo had been practically exterminated.

By the turn of the twentieth century there is reason to believe that not a single buffalo remained on the plains of Canada in a wild state. Far to the north, in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake, was an isolated herd of what were known as "wood buffalo". In addition to these, a few scattered specimens of plains buffalo may have persisted in the upper Peace River Valley, and there were a few small groups of mixed origin in captivity.

Through the efforts of an agent of the Dominion Government an opportunity was afforded to re-establish the plains buffalo in Canada by the acquisition of the greater part of the only remaining large herd on the continent. The origin of this herd, built up by two Montana ranchers, Michel Pablo and Charles Allard, dates back to 1873, when an Indian, Walking Coyote by name, captured four buffalo calves in the Milk River district of Montana near the International Boundary. These buffalo came under the care of the St. Ignatius Mission in the Flathead Reservation of Montana, and by 1884 the original four had increased to thirteen.

That year ten of the animals were purchased by the two ranchers, who apparently realized the investment possibilities of a nearly-extinct species. In 1893 they added to their holdings 26 animals from the "Buffalo" Jones herd of Kansas, part of which originated from buffalo developed at Stony Mountain, in Manitoba. On the death of Allard in 1896 his share of the herd, numbering about 300 head, was divided among his heirs and sold, providing the nucleus of many of the small herds existing in the United States today.

A few years later the remaining herd owned by Pablo was faced with dispersion or destruction through the cancellation of his grazing privileges on the Flathead Range. The Dominion Government was advised of this fact and offered to purchase the buffalo and move them to a suitable tract in Canada. In 1906 negotiations for the purchase of the herd at a price of approximately \$250 a head were commenced, and, after overcoming many difficulties in the round-up and shipment, 716 buffalo were safely delivered to Canada by Pablo between 1907 and 1912.

The first two shipments of buffalo from Montana, totalling 410 head, were made to Elk Island Park, as the fencing of a new preserve near Wainright, Alberta, later to be known as Buffalo National Park, had not yet been completed. Seven head from an exhibition herd at Banff were also brought to Elk Island, and in exchange 16 head of the Montana buffalo were shipped to Banff. By



1909 the new park was ready for occupation, and that year a total of 325 head were shipped from Elk Island Park to Wainwright. Owing to decreases and losses resulting from a change of habitat, it was found that the number of buffalo remaining in Elk Island Park was 48, and these animals formed the nucleus of the present herd.

During the years that followed the buffalo in Elk Island National Park increased steadily in numbers, necessitating periodical reductions by supervised slaughter to keep the herd within the grazing capacity of the range. In spite of these reductions, which have accounted for more than 1,650 head, the herd at present numbers over 1,200—nearly double the number originally purchased from Pablo.

Under careful supervision, and provided with adequate forage, these buffalo are among the most magnificent specimens of their kind existing in North America today. Because of the shade provided by the forest growth of the park their hair is particularly dark and thick, and they are all sturdy and well developed. Regular biological inspections carried out have also revealed that they are free from diseases that have beset the species in other regions.

The buffalo, however, are not the only big game animals within the park. When the area was originally reserved, about 20 elk and a few mule deer and moose were enclosed. These animals have also flourished under

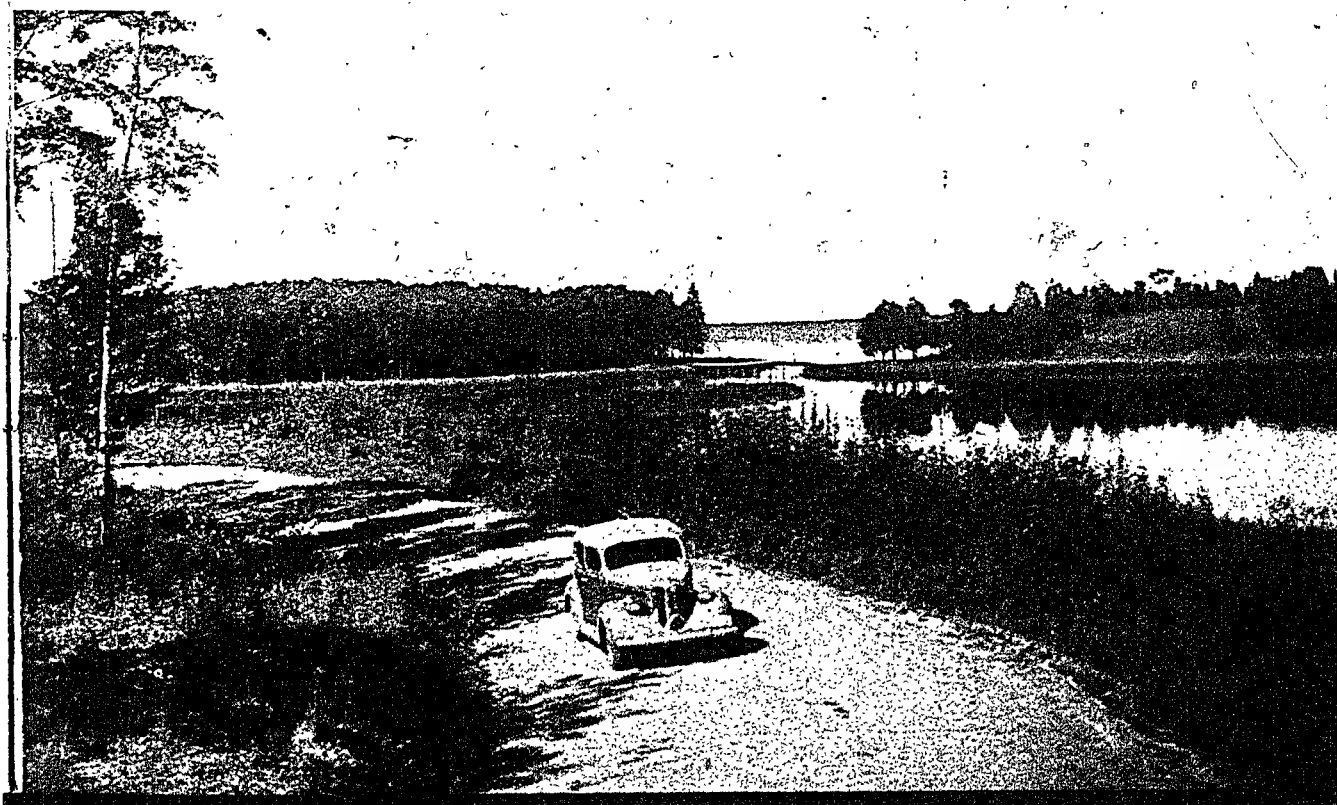
sanctuary conditions, and the elk herd now numbers over 500. The deer and moose have also increased substantially.

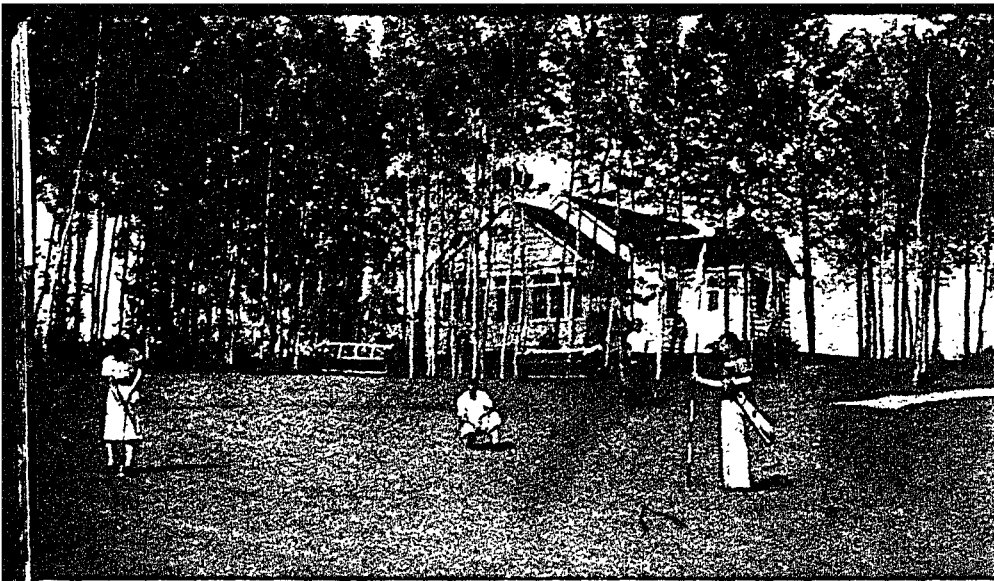
Elk Island National Park is also one of the most important bird sanctuaries in Western Canada. In early summer the lakes are literally alive with waterfowl, many of which breed along the reedy shores. More than 200 species of birds, including common residents and migrants, have been identified by competent observers.

#### *Approaches to the Park*

Elk Island National Park is easily reached from the south, west, and north by provincial highways. Highway No. 16 skirts the southern boundary of the park, and the south gate is situated about 27 miles east of Edmonton. An approach from the town of Lamont on Highway No. 15 may be made via the northern gateway, and access is also provided by a county road which crosses the western boundary within a mile of the park headquarters.

Lines of the Canadian National Railways pass within a short distance of the northern and southern boundaries of the park. The nearest railway station is Lamont, about four miles from the northern gateway. The City of Edmonton, 36 miles distant from the park headquarters, is served by the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways systems, and also possesses one of the most important air ports in Western Canada.





*The Golf Club-house  
and 9th Green*

### ***Natural Features***

Numerous lakes in the park provide an additional attraction for the visitor. Astotin Lake, the largest, is about two and a half miles long and a mile and a half wide. It is studded with numerous islands, several of which are connected to the mainland by rustic bridges. Among these are Long Island, on the western side of the lake, and Elk Island, off the south shore on which a camp is established in summer by the Boy Scouts. In the southern part of the park are Tawayik, Little Tawayik, Oster, Paul, and Long Lakes,

as well as many ponds and sloughs. In addition to paths which lead to and from the bridges, numerous trails wind through the park.

The most abundant forest growth in the park is aspen or white poplar. Black or balsam poplar, white birch, and willow are common, and tamarack, white spruce, and black spruce are also found. Shrubs abound and include hazel, high-bush cranberry, saskatoon, choke cherry, pin cherry, and dogwood. During the spring and early summer, wild flowers bloom among the trees and in the grass, and their perfume and colour impart an added charm to the meadows and woodlands.

### ***Administration and Accommodation***

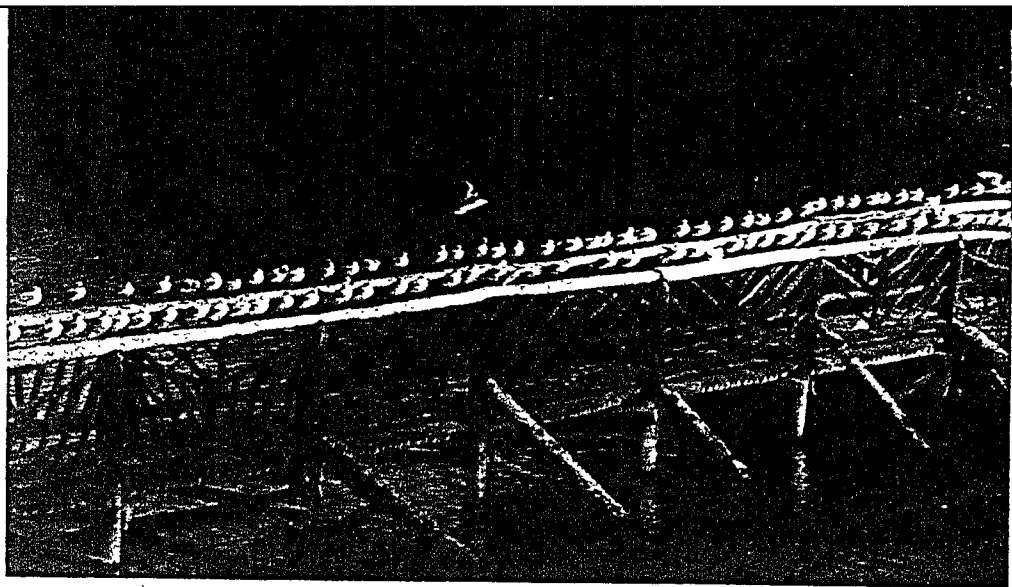
The administration of the park is carried out by a resident superintendent. The Administration building and the superintendent's residence are situated on the western side of Astotin Lake, about nine miles from the southern gateway, and less than a mile from the western entrance. Information concerning the animals and other attractions in the park, as well as literature and printed guides may be obtained at the superintendent's office.

Chiefly because of its proximity to Lamont and Edmonton, the park as yet contains no hotel or bungalow camp accommodation. A large camp-ground near Sandy Beach, however, provides accommodation for visitors bringing their own camping equipment or travelling in automobile cabin trailers. A permit issued on payment of a small fee entitles the camper to the use of a camping lot and equipped kitchen shelters. A large community building situated nearby on a hill overlooking the lake is available for sing-songs and informal entertainment.



*A Buffalo Family Group*

*A Squadron of  
Gulls*



### ***Recreational Opportunities***

Opportunities for the enjoyment of summer sports are many. On the eastern side of Astotin Lake a recreational centre, known as Sandy Beach, has been developed. Here is a long stretch of fine clean sand shelving gently into the water, which affords fine bathing under safe conditions. Bath-houses have been built for the convenience of visitors, and a board walk on the beach provides a vantage point from which to view the lake.

Extending back from the beach is a central park area, which has been landscaped with trees and walks, and provided with rustic seats and benches. In the immediate vicinity an area has been developed for baseball, softball, and other forms of recreation. Tennis courts are available for the use of visitors, and amusements such as swings and see-saws have been provided for children. Boating on Astotin Lake is popular; water craft may be rented from a boat livery which operates during the summer season. South of the bathing beach, in a beautiful grove facing the lake, is a picnic ground containing a large number of tables, benches and other conveniences.

A nine-hole golf course has been built on a rolling plateau southeast of Astotin Lake. The fairways and greens are flanked by forest growth and are maintained in fine condition. Small ponds worked into the layout add interesting hazards to the course. An attractive club-house, where light refreshments may be had, overlooks the lake and is at the disposal of visitors.

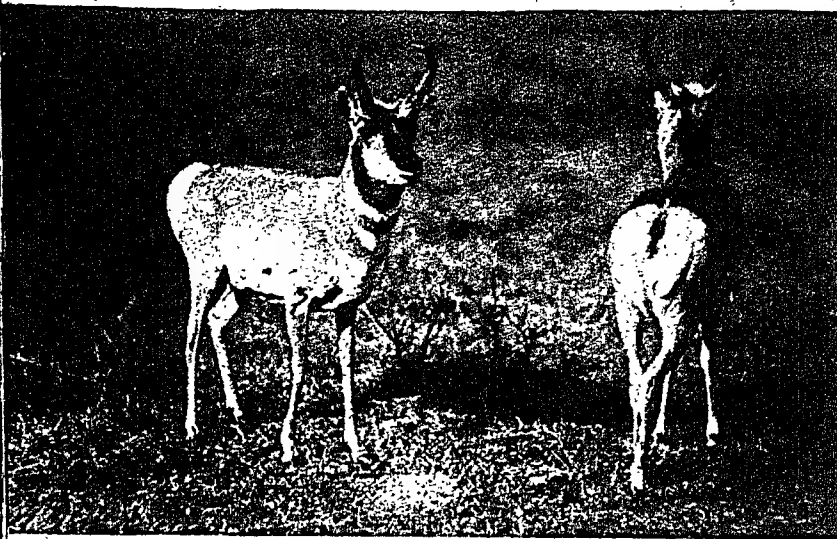
Many of the park's attractions, including the wild animals, may be seen while driving over the all-weather motor road which crosses

the park from south to north. The road winds through forested sections and skirts the open meadows that fringe Astotin Lake, affording views of buffalo grazing or perhaps enjoying a sand bath in a "wallow" or sandy depression.

Elk Island National Park has been instrumental in preserving outstanding examples of big game in natural surroundings. It also provides opportunities for outdoor life and recreation under ideal conditions, and is rapidly becoming an important unit in Canada's system of National Playgrounds.



*Boating Among the Islands on Astotin Lake*



*A Pair of Pronghorn Antelope*

## NEMISKAM NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA

AN INTERESTING wild life sanctuary in Western Canada is Nemiskam National Park, which was established for the protection of pronghorn antelope. Situated in the southeastern part of Alberta, about 35 miles north of the International Boundary, and 40 miles southwest of Medicine Hat, the park is enclosed and contains an area of eight and a half square miles.

The antelope or "pronghorn" is among the fleetest and most graceful of quadrupeds native to the North American continent, and is unique in that it is the sole member of a family found nowhere else in the world. It has hollow pronged horns, which are shed each year. Unlike the moose and deer which shed the entire antler, the antelope drops only the outer sheath of its horns. The inner core, situated directly over the eye, remains, and gives rise to a new horn. Another remarkable feature of the antelope is the white patch of hair on the rump, which is capable of being erected by muscular contraction, and thus serves as a signalling device in time of danger.

The antelope once shared with the buffalo an enormous range extending from the Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba on the north to Mexico on the south. Its numbers were counted in the millions, but, like the buffalo, the antelope was crowded off its natural habitat before the march of settlement, until it was in danger of extinction.

About 1914 the rapid decline in numbers of the antelope in Canada was brought to the attention of the Dominion Government, and steps were taken to reserve areas for its protection. Previous attempts to breed this sensitive animal in captivity had met with little success, owing to the effects of the shock of capture, and it was believed that only in a large area where they were unaware of confinement, would the antelope survive in numbers.

The following year a small herd known to inhabit a region a few miles northeast of Foremost, Alberta, was corralled by the simple method of building a fence around them. The area enclosed was reserved as an antelope preserve, and in 1922 was established as Nemiskam National Park. Under sanctuary conditions the antelope have since flourished and the original herd, which numbered 42, has shown a gratifying increase. In the winter, when the snow has drifted against the fences some of the animals have escaped so that there has been no problem of overgrazing the range in normal seasons.

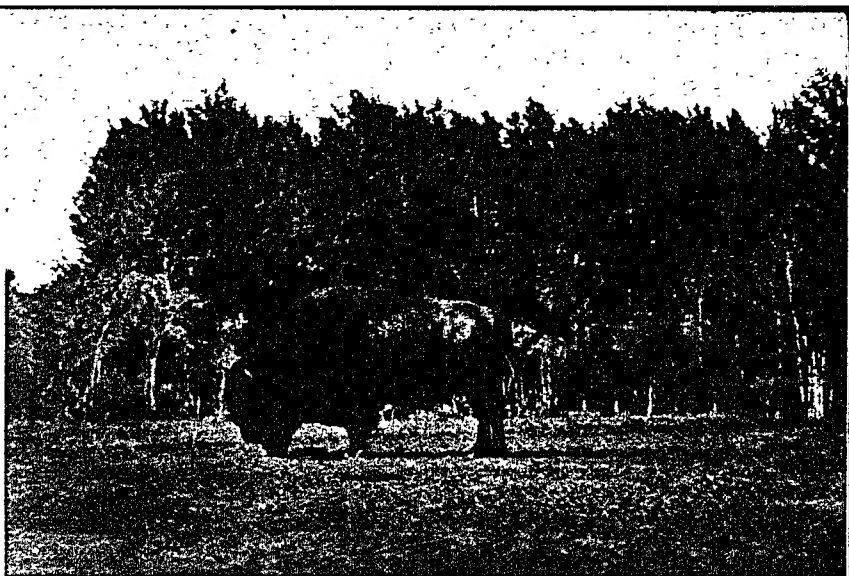
The park is situated in the heart of the original antelope range, amid rolling, treeless plains, covered with grass, sage, cactus, and shrubs. A broad arroyo or coulee, nearly a mile wide and about 200 feet deep, cuts northeasterly through the park, affording a sheltered area for the antelope. Natural springs, which have been dammed to form reservoirs, provide a water supply for the herd. A resident park warden is in charge.

The park contains no tourist accommodation. Accommodation, however, is available at Medicine Hat, from which the park may be reached by automobile over a country road connecting with Provincial Highway No. 3.

*A Young Antelope*



## WOOD BUFFALO PARK



*Buffalo Bull*

WOOD BUFFALO PARK, situated partly in the Province of Alberta and partly in the Northwest Territories, is the largest big game preserve on the North American Continent. It lies west of Athabaska and Slave Rivers, about 300 miles north of Edmonton, and contains an area of 17,300 square miles of unbroken wilderness, 13,675 square miles of which are in Alberta. Established primarily for the protection of a herd of wood bison or buffalo, it now forms a vast preserve for many other species of big game and fur-bearing animals.

Early explorers in the Mackenzie River district of Canada's Northwest reported the presence of small herds of buffalo along the wooded banks of Slave River between Athabaska and Great Slave Lakes. These animals, described by naturalists as wood bison, and larger and darker than typical plains buffalo, are looked upon as the last wild remnant of the great original herds of the continent. While protective game laws were introduced as early as 1893, indiscriminate killing of the buffalo in this remote region continued until the establishment of Wood Buffalo Park in 1922 by the Dominion Government, to prevent the extermination of the species.

An estimate of the number of wood buffalo in the territory north of Peace River in 1924 indicated that not more than 1,500 head

remained. To supplement this herd, a total of 6,673 selected surplus animals from Buffalo National Park, Alberta, were introduced to Wood Buffalo Park between 1925 and 1928. Shipped from Wainwright to Waterways by rail, they were transported by river barges to a prepared landing site on the Slave River south of Fitzgerald.

After a period of readjustment, these plains buffalo became accustomed to their new grazing area and have mingled with the wood buffalo to produce a rugged species well suited to northern latitudes. While the heavily timbered terrain presents difficulties in taking a census of the animals in the park, observations made by park wardens and scientific investigators on summer and winter ranges indicate a steady increase in numbers of the buffalo, and their total has been placed at 9,000 head.

In the establishment of the park, the protection and increase, not only of buffalo but of other game species, valuable fur-bearers, and migratory birds, was intended. Consequently, in keeping with a policy of strict conservation, travellers to the region must obtain the consent of the park superintendent before entering the park. Indians, half-breeds, and whites who trapped in the region before the park was established are permitted to hunt and trap under licence, and as a result, their economic requirements have been sustained. The buffalo, however, are rigidly protected.

The local administration of the park is carried out by a superintendent located at Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. He is assisted by a warden service, and warden stations are situated at strategic points throughout the park. Access to the park is provided in summer by river boat service from Waterways, terminal of the Northern Alberta Railways line from Edmonton. Air services are provided the year around from Edmonton, Alberta, and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

*Banksian Pine on Buffalo Range*



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Administration**—The administration of Riding Mountain, Prince Albert, and Elk Island National Parks is supervised by resident superintendents. Visitors may obtain literature, maps, and general information at the administration buildings in these parks. Nemiskam National Park is in charge of a resident park warden. A superintendent, whose office is situated at Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, carries out the administration of Wood Buffalo Park.

**Park Seasons**—The tourist season for Riding Mountain, Prince Albert, Elk Island, and Nemiskam National Parks extends approximately from May 1 to October 31.

**Registration and Motor Licences**—All motor tourists entering Riding Mountain, Prince Albert, and Elk Island National Parks must register and secure a transient motor licence as provided for in regulations governing the use of motor roads in the national parks. Licences are issued for automobiles, with or without cabin trailers, at nominal fees on the following basis:

1. Single trip licence. Good for period not exceeding 30 days if automobile is not taken out of the park during such period.
2. Licence good for the entire season, which will be honoured in each of Riding Mountain, Prince Albert, Elk Island, Waterton Lakes, and Point Pelee Parks.
3. Special licence good for entire season, which will be honoured in all national parks where a transient motor licence is required.

A distinctive sticker is issued with each seasonal licence. No admission charge is made at Nemiskam Park but visitors should register with the park warden. Permission to enter Wood Buffalo Park must be obtained from the superintendent.

**Camping**—Camping in Riding Mountain, Prince Albert, and Elk Island National Parks is permitted on camp-grounds or camp-sites provided for the purpose. Public camp-grounds, furnished with kitchen shelters, and camp-stoves, tables, water, fuel and other conveniences will be found in these parks, as well as camp-sites, less completely equipped. Permits, renewable on expiration, for camping in ordinary tents or automobile trailers are issued for periods of two weeks or fraction thereof at nominal rates. These permits may be obtained from camp-ground attendants. No camping facilities are available at Nemiskam and Wood Buffalo Parks.

**Hunting**—All National Parks are wild life sanctuaries. Wild animals, birds, nests, and eggs are rigidly protected. Hunting is prohibited in parks, and guns must be sealed by a park officer on entry.

Visitors are especially cautioned against feeding bears or other wild animals.

**Fishing**—The season for pike and pickerel in Riding Mountain Park extends from July 1 to September 30 and the daily limit is 10 fish or 20 pounds. In Prince Albert Park the season for pike and pickerel extends from May 16 to September 30 and the daily limit is 5 fish or 30 pounds; for great lake trout the season extends from May 16 to August 31, and the daily limit is 5 fish or 50 pounds.

**Dogs and Cats**—Special regulations govern the keeping of dogs and cats in National Parks. Visitors should report immediately to the office of the Park Superintendent for authority to bring any animal into the park.

**Preservation of Natural Features**—The defacement of natural rock formations, and the cutting, carving, or removing of bark from trees and shrubs is strictly forbidden. The protection and preservation of wild flowers for future enjoyment is desirable.

**Fire Prevention**—Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Matches, cigarette and cigar butts, pipe ashes, and other smoking materials should be completely extinguished before being thrown away, and then dropped only in water or on bare soil.

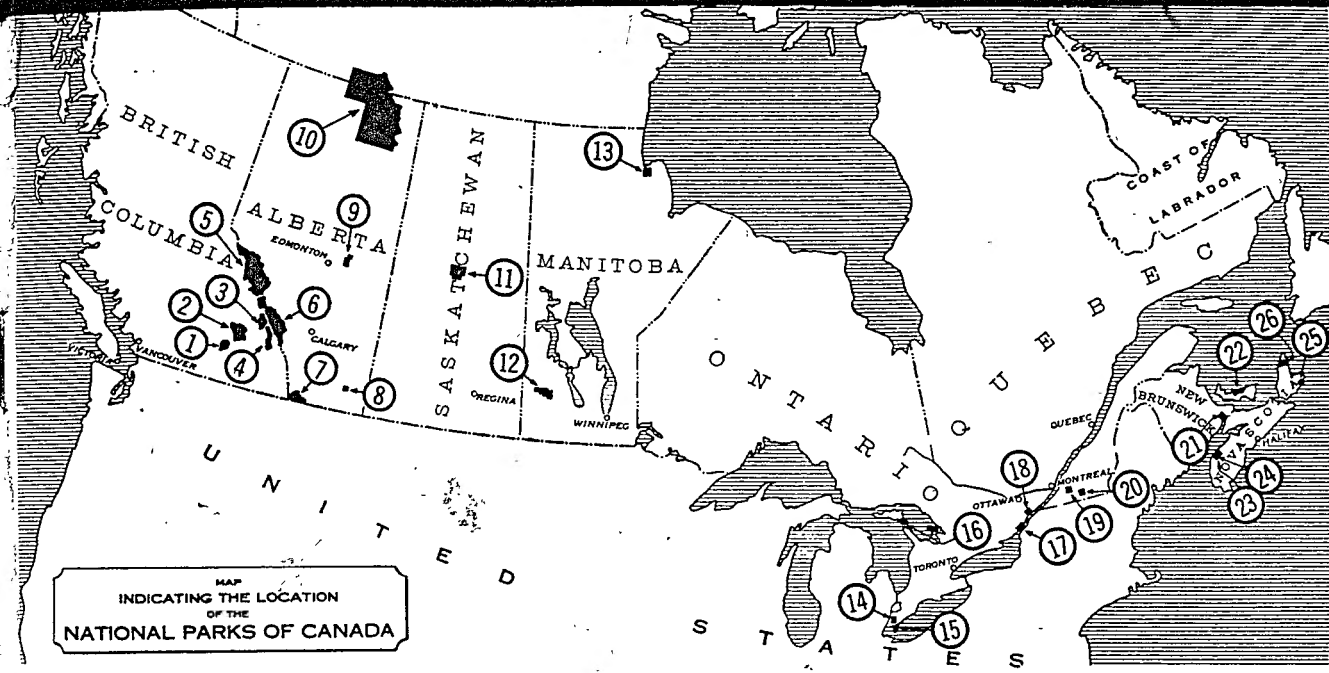
Camp-fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose and must be completely extinguished before leaving. Persons using park trails or canoe routes should secure particulars concerning suitable camp-sites from park officers.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible; otherwise, the nearest park officer should be notified at once.

**General**—The park wardens will be glad to answer questions and assist visitors whenever possible. Suggestions and complaints should be brought to the attention of the park superintendent, who will give them careful and courteous attention.

*Additional information concerning accommodation, motor licence and camping fees, and other matters related to National Parks, may be obtained from the Park Superintendents or from the National Parks Bureau, Ottawa, Canada.*





## THE NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA

1. **MOUNT REVELSTOKE, British Columbia.** Rolling mountain-top plateau on west slope of the Selkirk Mountains. Accessible by motor road. Established 1914; area, 100 square miles.
2. **GLACIER, British Columbia.** Superb alpine region in heart of Selkirk Mountains. Snow-capped peaks, glaciers, luxuriant flora. Established 1886; area, 521 square miles.
3. **YOHO, British Columbia.** On west slope of Rockies. High peaks, beautiful lakes, Yoho and Kicking Horse Valleys. Established 1886; area, 507 square miles.
4. **KOOTENAY, British Columbia.** Encloses Vermilion-Sinclair section of Banff-Windermere Highway in Rockies. Broad valleys, deep canyons, hot mineral springs. Established 1920; area, 587 square miles.
5. **JASPER, Alberta.** Immense playground and game sanctuary. Majestic peaks, ice-fields, beautiful lakes, and famous resort, Jasper. Summer and winter sports; golf. Established 1907; area, 4,200 square miles.
6. **BANFF, Alberta.** Magnificent scenic playground in central Rockies. Noted resorts, Banff and Lake Louise. Summer and winter sports centre; golf; big game sanctuary. Established 1885; area, 2,585 square miles.
7. **WATERTON LAKES, Alberta.** Canadian section, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. Mountain playground with colourful peaks, varied flora and fauna; golf. Established 1895; area, 220 square miles.
8. **NEMISKAM, Alberta.** Fenced preserve for pronghorned antelope. Reserved 1915; Established 1922; area, 8.5 square miles.
9. **ELK ISLAND, Alberta.** Fenced preserve containing large herd of buffalo; also deer, elk, and moose. Recreational and camping resort; golf. Reserved 1906; established 1913; area 51.2 square miles.
10. **WOOD BUFFALO, Alberta, and N.W.T.** Immense region of forests and open plains west of Slave River between Athabaska and Great Slave Lakes. Large herd of buffalo and other big and small game. Established 1922; area, 17,300 square miles.
11. **PRINCE ALBERT, Saskatchewan.** Forested lakeland interlaced with numerous streams. Summer resort and recreational area; golf. Established 1927; area, 1,869 square miles.
12. **RIDING MOUNTAIN, Manitoba.** Playground and game preserve on summit of Manitoba escarpment. Summer resort and recreational area; golf. Established 1929; area, 1,148 square miles.
13. **FORT PRINCE OF WALES, Manitoba.** National Historic Park at Churchill. Ruins of fort built 1733-1771 by English to control Hudson Bay. Established 1941; area 50 acres.

14. **FORT MALDEN, Ontario.** National Historic Park with museum at Amherstburg. Defence post built by English, 1797-99 on Detroit River. Established 1941; area 3 acres.
15. **POINT PELEE, Ontario.** Recreational area on Lake Erie, with fine beaches and unique flora. Resting point for migratory birds. Established 1918; area, 6.04 square miles.
16. **GEORGIAN BAY ISLANDS, Ontario.** Thirty islands in Georgian Bay. Unique formations on Flowerpot Island. Recreational area. Established 1929; area, 5.37 square miles.
17. **ST. LAWRENCE ISLANDS, Ontario.** Mainland area, and thirteen islands in "Thousand Islands" group with recreational facilities. Reserved 1904; established 1914; area, 185.6 acres.
18. **FORT WELLINGTON, Ontario.** National Historic Park with museum at Prescott. Defence post built on St. Lawrence River 1812-13. Established 1941; area 8½ acres.
19. **FORT CHAMBLY, Quebec.** National Historic Park with museum at Chambly Canton. Fort built by French 1665 on Richelieu River; rebuilt 1709-11. Established 1941; area 2½ acres.
20. **FORT LENNOX, Quebec.** National Historic Park with museum on Ile-aux-Noix, Richelieu River, near St. Johns. Fortifications built 1812-27 by English. Established 1941; area 210 acres.
21. **FORT BEAUSÉJOUR, New Brunswick.** National Historic Park with museum near Sackville. Site of French fort erected 1751-55. Established 1926; area 59 acres.
22. **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.** Strip 25 miles long on north shore of island province. Recreational area with fine beaches; golf. Established 1937; area, 7 square miles.
23. **FORT ROYAL, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park at Lower Granville. Restoration of the "Habitation" or first fort built 1605 by Champlain and De Monts. Established 1941; area 17 acres.
24. **FORT ANNE, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park with museum at Annapolis Royal. Fort associated with early Acadian history. Established 1917; area 31 acres.
25. **FORTRESS OF LOUISBOURG, Nova Scotia.** National Historic Park with museum near Louisbourg. Ruins of walled city erected by the French 1720-40. Established 1941; area 339½ acres.
26. **CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Nova Scotia.** Rugged Cape Breton Island coastline with mountain background. Fine seascapes from highway; golf. Established 1936; area, 390 square miles.

### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

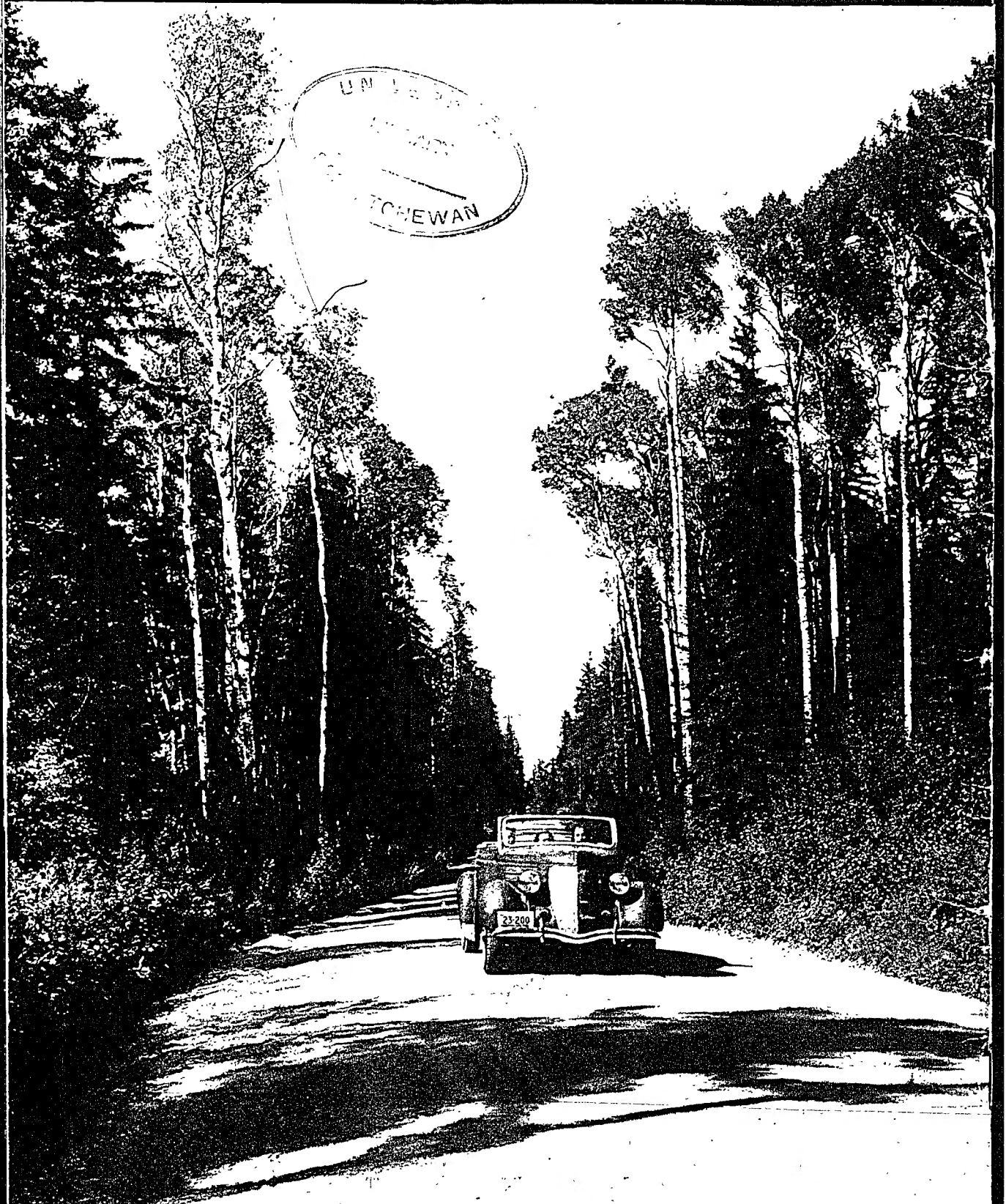
#### *Lands, Parks and Forests Branch*

NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU

OTTAWA, CANADA



# PLAYGROUNDS OF THE PRAIRIES



RIDING MOUNTAIN, PRINCE ALBERT  
ELK ISLAND, NEMISKAM, AND WOOD  
BUFFALO NATIONAL PARKS